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SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR DECEMBER 11 CONSULTATIONS ON
GUINEA-BISSAU

¶1. (U) This is an action request. USUN should draw from the statement in para 2 during the UN Security Council consultations on Guinea-Bissau December 11.

¶2. Begin Statement:

I would like to thank Under Secretary General Pascoe for briefing the UNSC on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. Today, I would like to make three points.

First, the United States congratulates the government and people of Guinea- Bissau on their successful November 16 legislative elections. This election should serve as an encouragement for democracies throughout Africa and around the world. The U.S. and international observers witnessed an election that was transparent, well-organized, and well-executed despite minor technical issues. The United States also condemns the attack on President Vieira's residence, and calls on all political parties to respect fully the election results and to work together to build a prosperous and secure future for Guinea-Bissau.

Second, while the elections are a significant achievement, we recognize the importance of Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Guinea-Bissau. In that light, we are encouraged by the informal meeting on SSR and Guinea-Bissau that took place in June at the Peacebuilding Commission, and commend the Government of Guinea-Bissau for its cooperation with the UN SSR Inter-Agency Assessment Mission. The U.S. encourages the implementation of the SSR Program that will ensure effective security and justice reforms.

Third, the U.S. is concerned over the growth in drug trafficking activities in Guinea-Bissau. If left unchecked, the drug traffickers could present a clear challenge to the Government of Guinea-Bissau's governing authority. The U.S. notes with particular concern reported involvement of high-ranking national officials in these activities and reiterates that the increasing incidence of drug trafficking threatens peace and security in Guinea-Bissau and in the sub-region.

Lastly, we thank the Representative of the Secretary-General and the staff of UNOGBIS, as well as by the United Nations country team, towards helping consolidate peace, democracy and the rule of law in Guinea-Bissau.

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